

FAQs: What a Year! A Review of 2020 and a Look Ahead

Q: When ballots are ready to be approved by the WEC, where are those sent to?

A: County clerks should send their ballot to the Help Desk: elections@wi.gov

Q: If you have time, would you please give a recap of lessons learned with recount.

A: Clerks can still add missing witness information on absentee ballots; clerks and election inspectors must be more careful about initialing ballots before they are issued to voters as absentee ballots or election day ballots. Municipalities that use the override function on their voting equipment must still review a rejected ballot for voter intent and remake ballots where voter intent can be determined.

Q: Do you anticipate any changes in laws/procedures for 2021 elections?

A: Legislative leaders have publicly indicated that they plan to seek election administration changes.

Q: Can the clerk plus an election worker conduct curbside voting? We only have 3 poll workers.

A: If the clerk is appointed as an election inspector.

Q: Are there only TWO elections this year? Feb 16 and April 6?

A: Yes (minus any special elections that may occur)!

Q: Where do we find the Municipal Clerk Checklist?

A: Under Clerks>Education/Training>New Clerk Checklist.

Q: The Election Day Voting in Wisconsin Brochure has the driver license expiration date as November 6, 2018 - when will these forms be updated?

A: Thank you for your reminder. These will be updated shortly.

Q: It looks like we have some postage costs changing as of the 25th. Do we have any guidance from the post office on if they will honor of pre-paid inner envelopes if they are metered before the change takes place?

A: That's a great question, please ask your local post office for more information as we are not certain.

Q: As far as not accepting requests in person when does that "start" is it just always? so outside the 14 days before each election we can never accept them in person?

A: Clerks cannot accept by mail absentee ballot requests from voters in their office or a drop box prior to the start of in person absentee voting 14 days before the election.

Q: We added many poll workers in 2020 (thankfully) but now we will have only two elections and not a big demand due to expected turnout. Should we be going back to the list of inspectors approved by the board for the 2-year term way back before the pandemic?

A: Yes, start with them (prioritizing party poll workers) and you may reach out to additional poll workers as needed.

Q: How much training is required of clerks/poll workers/Chief inspectors annually?

A: Clerks and Chief Inspectors need six hours of training every 2 years. There is no minimum number of hours for regular election inspectors (poll workers). They must receive some type of election training every two year.

Q: Do they need to fill out an absentee request form to vote in-person absentee?

A: When voting in person absentee, the EL-122 absentee certificate envelope serves as both an application and certification.

Q: We are holding our Caucus in the County Courthouse. Can we require face coverings since they are required to enter the courthouse?

A: Yes, we believe participation at the caucus is not the same as voting at the polls on Election Day and masks may be required if that is your local policy.

Q: Could you direct me to instructions on handling registration post cards that were returned to me with a different address label from the post office? Thanks.

A: You should follow-up with the voter by phone, email or letter. If the letter comes back as undeliverable, you can deactivate their voter record in WisVote.

Q: I want to also thank all of you for your hard work and keeping us on the right track. Did you say that if they are able to come in, we should have them come in?

A: Thank you! If a voter is able to enter the polling place, they should enter. But we consider being immunocompromised, having COVID, or exposure to COVID as reasons why a voter cannot enter the polling place.

Q: I have been asked the question about the campaign signs still up. Is there anything that can or should be done about these campaign signs?

A: State statute allows municipalities to create their own ordinances related to campaign sign restrictions. However, these restrictions are unlikely to be enforceable due to first amendment rights. Contact your municipal attorney regarding your statutes and enforceability.

Q: Will the WEC continue to supply items such as face masks, hand sanitizer or are we on our own going forward?

A: We have no plans to, but please contact our office if you are having difficulties securing these items.

Q: Will there be any changes for clerks regarding the 2021 Assembly Resolution 3 from Jan. 4, 2021?

A: A resolution does not have the same impact as legislation. Changes in election administration would have to be approved by both house of the legislature and signed into law by the governor.

Q: Sounds like a good reason to allow absentee voted ballots to be immediately fed into machine instead of folded ballots stored in envelopes until election day.

A: Legislation has been proposed in the past to allow this practice, but was never approved.

Q: Where is the training agenda found?

A: Clerks>Education/Training>Training Agendas

Q: What is the guidance on nursing home voting for February election?

A: We will be releasing guidance regarding this shortly. (Since this webinar aired, the Commission has decided to suspend the use of SVDs at care facilities based on information and feedback from the public health department. This decision will be revisited for the April election).

Q: Will I get credit for re-taking chief inspector training if I elect to do a full refresher?

A: Yes, once per two-year term.

Q: We cannot accept a person bringing in an absentee application until the in-office voting period correct?

A: That is correct.

Q: I have had people call to say they want to unregister and have their voter record deleted. Is this possible? How should we respond?

A: Have the voter send the request to you in writing and you can deactivate their registration. They will continue to stay in the statewide voter registration database as an inactive voter and will have to re-register if they want to vote in the future.

Q: Follow up - they say they will come to the polls on election days to do so.

A: To register? That is fine, they will not appear on the poll book and will need to register to vote.

Q: Are the instructions for submitting training hours located on the checklist?

A: Yes, they are instructions and a link to the online reporting form.

Q: Do actual Elections count as training?

A: No, they do not count as training.

Q: If curbside is for voters with disabilities or active COVID-19 symptoms, how do we ask that question or do we just assume they are disabled and/or have COVID-19?

A: If a voter asks for a curbside vote, you ask if they are unable to enter to a disability. If they say yes, take their word for it.

Q: Because we are not able to accept absentee ballot applications in person until February 2, can a voter use the drop box?

A: No, that is still considered in person.

Q: I can follow up with a phone call after the webinar if more proper, but thought I would ask as it has just come up. When setting up a ballot, is it possible to have a differing font size for a candidate in order for it to fit properly on the ballot. For the Feb ballot, Shandowlyon's name does

not fit as the other candidates do. The option is to create a larger 'span' for all ballot candidates or to simply shrink the font size for only that candidate. Is that permissible?

A: No, different size font should not be used between candidates. For longer names that do not fit on one line, use two lines and adjust the spacing of the other candidates' names so the field are the same length and width.

Q: We are volunteers, husband works with the book and I with registration. Do we need to check in or verify that we participated in this Webinar? THX

A: If you are an election inspector, please send your training information to your municipal clerk. You do not need to check-in with our agency.